

Krystyna Kowalewska

Subject: Exmoor Area Panel 8 November 2016 - Agenda

Please accept apologies from myself and Ruth McArthur, as we are unable to attend the Exmoor Panel meeting tomorrow evening. An update on the Local Plan is provided below for information, and we have the January date in our diaries when we should be in a position to update the Panel on the consultation arrangements for the modifications to the Local Plan.

Kind regards
Tessa

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Exmoor Local Plan examination hearing sessions were held during July. The Inspector then asked for comments on some documents as well as on new evidence for the Government's 2014-based household projections. The release of this new information required further work to understand how this would affect housing numbers for the National Park and the surrounding districts. This further work, which is published on the Authority's website, has meant that the examination timetable has changed.

The Inspector has provided the Authority with a list of the main changes or modifications to the Local Plan (these are mostly changes to the policies and many will have been discussed at the hearing sessions) for us to check and send back to the Inspector. This will include the need to check that these changes do not have any unintended impacts on important wildlife habitat designations and how the Plan affects people and the environment in general. There will also be some further changes to the text for the housing section (Section 6), due to the new evidence on the 2014-based household projections.

Once these stages have been completed the 'main modifications' and 'further changes to Section 6' will be taken to a full Authority Meeting with a recommendation to approve for consultation. There will then be a consultation for at least 6 weeks on the changes which is expected to take place in the New Year. All consultation responses will be sent to the Inspector who will then produce a final report on the Plan. Once we receive his report, the Plan can be adopted (with all the modifications to the Local Plan to make the Plan sound). Based on current expectations we expect this is likely to be in the summer next year, but this may change if any further changes to the timetable are needed.

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